AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claim 7 without prejudice.

1.   (Previously Presented):   A touch-operating input device comprising:

a display device for displaying operation function items;

a touch panel which is provided separately from the display device, said touch panel comprising a touch-operation face for selecting the function items by touch operation, wherein a touch-operation guide shape is formed with convex or concave ribs on said touch-operation face; and

control means for controlling said display device to display an image representing the touch-operation guide shape formed with the ribs of the touch-operation face of the touch panel, said image having substantially the same geometrical shape as the touch-operation guide shape formed with the ribs, wherein the operation function items are superposed on said image.

2.   (Original):   The touch-operating input device according to claim 1, wherein the touch-operation guide shape is at least one of a convex shape and a concave shape.

3-7.   (Cancelled)

8.   (Original)   The touch-operating input device according to claim 2, wherein a plurality of at least one of the convex shape and the concave shape are arranged in a predetermined direction on the touch-operation face.

9.   (Previously Presented)   The touch-operating input device according to claim 8, wherein plural pairs of the at least one of the convex shape and the concave shape arranged in the predetermined direction are arranged in a direction intersecting the predetermined direction.

10.   (Previously Presented)   The touch-operating input device according to claim 2, wherein at least one of the convex shape and the concave shape is disposed at at least one position serving as a reference for determining a position on the touch-operation face.

11.   (Previously Presented)   The touch-operating input device according to claim 2, wherein the convex shape is protruding shape and the concave shape is a recessed shape.

12-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original)   A display system comprising a display device for displaying the operation function items and the touch-operation input device as claimed in claim 1.

17. (Original)   The display system as claimed in claim 16, wherein said display device displays an image representing the touch-operation face, the image being overlapped with the operation function items.

18. (Original)   The display system according to claim 17, wherein a relative position in the image and a relative position on the touch-operation face correspond with each other.

19-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented)   A touch-operating input device comprising a display device for displaying operation function items and a touch panel which is provided separately from the display device and which is for selecting the function items by touch operation, wherein a touch-operation guide shape is formed on the touch-operation face of said touch panel, said touch-operating guide shape is at least one of a convex shape and a concave shape, wherein at least one of the convex shape and the concave shape is disposed at a center portion serving as a reference for determining a center position on the touch-operation face.

22. (Previously Presented)   A touch-operation assisting method for a touch-operating input device comprising (i) a display device for displaying operation function items and (ii) a touch panel which is provided separately from said display device and which comprises a touch-operation face for selecting the function items by touch operation, wherein a touch-operation guide shape is provided with convex or concave ribs on said touch-operation face, said method comprising:

controlling said display device to display an image representing the touch-operation guide shape formed with the ribs of the touch-operation face of the touch panel, said image having substantially the same geometrical shape as the touch-operation guide shape formed with the ribs; and

superposing the operation function items on said image.